

**ABSTRACT**

A method of and system for determining an ability of a first device to use an optical trail to communicate across an optical transport network with one or more other devices. The first device and the one or more other devices are external to the optical transport network. A first signal is transmitted from the first device, where the first signal indicates that at least a first port of the first device is available to be an endpoint for an optical trail across the optical transport network. The first signal is received at a first transport network device of the optical transport network. A second signal is transmitted from the first transport network device, where the second signal identifies a second port of a second transport network device included in the optical transport network to which the first device can send signals corresponding to an optical trail. The second signal is received at the first device.